IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.:	10/810929
Applicant:	Messina
Filed:	26 March 2004
Title:	COMPUTER-BASED SYSTEM AND COMPUTER PROGRAN FOR INTERROGATING A USER AND GENERATING A RESULT BASED UPON THE USER'S INTERROGATORY RESPONSES
Group Art Unit:	2129
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Examiner:	Bharadwaj, Kalpana
Attorney Docket No.:	139612-1

APPEAL BRIEF

MS Appeal Brief – Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Appeal Brief is filed to support the Notice of Appeal filed in this application on 23 September 2009. This Appeal Brief is accompanied by the fee for filing an Appeal Brief under 37 C.F.R. §41.20(b)(2).

Any fee deficiencies may be charged, or any overpayment credited, to our deposit account 12-2136.

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I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest in this appeal is the Applicant and named inventor, Edmund Messina.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no other appeals or interferences known to Appellant or Appellants' legal representative which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

III. Status of Claims

A. History

This application was filed with claims 1-19

B. Current Status of Claims

Claims cancelled: 5

Claims withdrawn from consideration but not cancelled: None

Claims pending: 1-4 and 6-21

Claims allowed: None

Claims rejected: 1-4 and 6-21

C. Claims on Appeal

The claims on appeal are claims 1-4 and 6-21

IV. Status of Amendments

The most recent amendment to the claims was by a paper submitted on 15 April 2009. Accordingly, the appellants understand the current form of the claims to be represented by the amendment submitted on 15 April 2009 (reproduced in Section 0 below (Claims Appendix)).

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The claimed subject matter relates to a computer program and computer-based system and method for interrogating a user, and more particularly to a database of processes, including questions, having a predefined relationship between a pre-designated starting process and one or more ending processes to thereby define a plurality of possible logical paths through the database, wherein the selection of one of the possible paths through the database proceeds as dictated by the user's answers to the questions.

The accuracy of the information developed from conventional interrogation, whether it be from inter-personal communications or the mere filling out of a form questionnaire, depends at least in part upon the nature and quality of the questions presented, the nature and quality of the answers, as well as the nature and quality of the interrogation process, all of which limitations implicate the more fundamental issue of the scope of the interrogating party's knowledge of the subject of questioning. Thus, in the exemplary, but by no means limited, example of performing medical diagnoses, the accuracy of a resulting diagnosis will often be compromised by the extent of the physician's familiarity with the illness and its symptoms, which familiarity will, in turn, affect the types and number of questions presented to the patient by the physician, and the patient's answers to those questions. These and other limitations of prior art interrogation methodologies are addressed by a computer program, system and method for interrogating a user and generating a result, for example a report, video presentation, web-site presentation, etc., based upon the user's interrogatory answers.

The invention in one form comprises a computer-readable memory device encoded with a database including a plurality of predefined questions and associated, predefined answers, wherein the plurality of questions and answers are organized in a predefined relationship between a pre-designated starting question and one or more ending questions to thereby define a plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths through the database, and wherein further selection of any of the plurality of possible logical paths is user-answer-dependent; a computer-readable memory device encoded with a user interface for displaying questions from the database and accepting answers from a user; and a computer-readable memory device encoded with an engine operative to present questions from the database to

the user interface, and to navigate one of the plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths through the database as dictated by a user's answers to the questions presented at the user interface.

The database may further comprises content and rules for generating at least one report based upon a user's answers to questions presented at the user interface, the content and rules having a predefined relationship with the plurality of predefined questions and answers of the database so that the content of the at least one report is dependent upon a user's answers to questions from the database. The engine is operative to generate from the reporting database at least one report using the content and rules from the database.

The database may also comprise a plurality of predefined questions and associated, predefined answers, includes questions and answers for evaluating a user's level of knowledge respecting a particular subject matter, and wherein further the content and rules for generating the at least one report based upon a user's answers to questions presented at the user interface include content and rules for generating a test score indicative of a user's level of knowledge respecting the particular subject matter.

The database may also comprise one or more video filed, the engine is operative to display the video files at the user interface, and, furthermore, the one or more video files are associated with the predefined questions and answers of the database so that the display of video files at the user interface is dependent upon a user's answers to questions from the database.

The database may still further comprise one or more URL addresses, the engine is operative to display the URL addresses at the user interface, and, furthermore, the one or more URL addresses are associated with the predefined questions and answers to the database so that the display of URL addresses at the user interface is dependent upon a user's answers to questions from the database.

According to the method of the invention, there is provided a process for questioning a user and generating a result, for example a report, custom video presentation, web-site presentation, etc., based upon the user's interrogatory answers, by the steps of: interrogating the user with predefined questions from a computer database comprising the predefined

questions and associated, predefined answers, wherein the questions and answers are organized in a predefined relationship between a pre-designated starting question and one or more ending questions to thereby define a plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths through the computer database, the selection of any one of the plurality of possible logical paths being user-answer-dependent, and wherein further the interrogation step is facilitated by an user interface operative to display the predefined questions from the at least one computer database, and to accept answers from a user provided in response to the displayed questions; and displaying a result at the user interface following the interrogation step, wherein the result is based upon a user's answers to the displayed questions.

VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

As a result of the most recent final Official Action mailed 25 June 2009:

> (1) Claims 1-4 and 6-21 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by Wyss, US Pub. App. 2002/0026435 ("Wyss").

Thus, the issue on appeal is whether pending claims 1-4 and 6-21 are anticipated. More specifically, Appellant presents the following specific issue for consideration on appeal:

> (1) Whether claims 1-4 and 6-21 are anticipated under 35 USC § 102(e) over Weiss.

VII. Argument

A. The Anticipation Rejection

Claims 1-4 and 6-21 stand rejected as being anticipated by the disclosure of Weiss. Final Official Action dated 25 June 2009, p. 2-13.

For the purposes of issue (1) on appeal (*see* Section VI above): Claims 1-4, 6-9 are grouped and argued as a single unit with claim 1 (i.e., the independent claim from which they depend); claims 10-18 are grouped and argued as a single unit with claim 10 (i.e., the independent claim from which they depend); and claims 19-21 are grouped and argued as a single unit with claim 19 (i.e., the independent claim from which they depend).

1. Anticipation Standard

The statutory foundation for anticipation rejections is 35 USC Section 102, which states, in pertinent part:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless...(e) the invention was described in - (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for the purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language....

Pursuant to Section 2131 of the M.P.E.P., "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, in rejecting a claimed invention under 35 USC Section 102, "[t]he ***identical*** invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989)(*emphasis added*). This is the USPTO's *prima facie* burden.

2. Disclosure of Wyss, U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0026435

Wyss discloses a knowledge-base system and method for automatically processing incoming questions submitted from outside the knowledge-base system by a "client." As Wyss discloses in the "Background":

> Knowledge-base systems or frequently asked questions lists (FAQs) are used in a wide variety of situations such as for customer service and sales. Organizations today are being swamped with questions from customers and even their own employees. Instead of using a telephone, however, more frequently these inquiries are being sent using alternate sources like web sites and emails. This can create a glut of online information requests that have to be processed by human beings. A customer service representative responding to such emails can be easily overwhelmed, and the responses to the requests may not be timely delivered. This can create dissatisfaction on the part of a customer, which in turn can lead to lost sales. In response to this problem, automated systems have been developed to process questions. Although such automated systems provide quicker responses to questions, the results generated by such systems can be typically less accurate than answers from a human being. The client then may repeatedly ask the same question in different ways in an attempt to receive the desired answer from the automated system, and this can lead to frustration. Another problem associated with such automated systems is that they can be hard to maintain. Therefore, there has been a long felt need for an easily maintainable knowledge-base system that can quickly and accurately reply to client inquiries. Par. [0003].

According to the particular knowledge-base system of Wyss, the system is generally characterized by a database of answers to frequently-asked questions. In other words, the knowledge-base system of Wyss is directed toward the automated answering of discrete questions presented by a client; it does ***not*** pose questions of any number. The following statement from Wyss is instructive:

> "A knowledge-base system includes a processor, a database, and a matcher for matching ***questions of clients*** to answers in the database." Abstract (*emphasis added*).

3. Distinction between Wyss and the Invention of Claims 1-4 and 6-9

The examiner asserts that Wyss teaches, at Par. 6, a plurality of predefined questions and associated, predefined answers organized in a predefined relationship between a pre-designated starting question and one or more ending questions to define a plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths. This is not, in fact, the case. Par. 6 of Wyss states:

> Still another form of the invention includes operating a knowledge-base system configured to store a database containing answers to questions and a number of response templates each providing a different response format. The system is operatively coupled to a client computer. An input is received from the client computer that corresponds to a question. A query result is generated from the database in response to the question from the client computer. A response message is created based on the question from the client computer, at least one of the response templates, and the query result. The response message is sent to the client computer.

Self evidently from the foregoing, Wyss comprehends receiving questions from a client rather than presenting those questions, and providing a response to those questions from the

database. As such, Wyss ***cannot*** comprehend "a plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths" as instantly claimed. At best, Wyss define only a plurality of possible responses to discrete questions posited externally from "clients."

Also relative to the independent claims, the examiner contends that Wyss teaches the navigation of one or the plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths as dictated by the user's answers to the questions as presented at the user interface. More specifically, the examiner claims to find correspondence for this limitation in Par. 71 of Wyss, which refers to a "matcher":

> "[T]he matcher **106** queries the database **108** in order to find Q/A entries relevant to the question. The matcher **106** uses the word index **700** from database **108** and the question-answer table **600** to generate a response." (*Emphasis original.*)

Consistent with the overall utility and operation of the Wyss invention, the foregoing and related discussion in that reference makes no mention of any navigation through any of a "plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths defined by the relationship between the pre-designated starting question and the one or more ending questions as dictated by a user's answers to the questions presented at the user interface." How could it be otherwise, inasmuch as no such "logical paths" as defined in the claims are described in Wyss and, correspondingly, the system of that reference is not directed to interrogating a user, but rather to responding to "frequently asked questions" (FAQs) submitted by "clients" from outside the system? In other words, the ***Wyss system merely searches for an answer to a question as a simple link between FAQ and response.***

Appellant's invention as defined in independent claim 1 is thus distinguishable at least in defining a computer program for ***interrogating a user*** and generating a result (for example a report, custom video presentation, web-site presentation, etc.) based upon the user's interrogatory answers, the interrogation being effected with the ***presentation to the user of predefined questions*** from a computer database comprising such predefined questions and associated, predefined answers that are organized in a predefined relationship between a pre-designated starting question and one or more ending questions to thereby define a plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths, and wherein further the selection of any one of the plurality of possible logical paths defined by the relationship between the pre-designated starting question and the one or more ending questions is user-answer dependent. This is emphasized in the independent claims, each of which recites that the Appellant's invention ***provides questions*** to be answered by a user (Wyss emphatically does ***not*** – even though comprising, in one form, a database including a plurality of question-answer sets, no questions are presented to a user to answer, nor are the question-answer sets organized in a predefined relationship between to define a plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths), as well as that the plurality of possible logical paths are defined by the relationship ***between the pre-designated starting question and the one or more ending questions*** (which

Wyss also necessarily lacks as a mere knowledge base for finding answers to client-generated FAQs).

Turning to claim 2 (and claim 3 which depends therefrom), Wyss fails to anticipate for at least the reason that the system of that reference does ***not*** interrogate a user (and, thus, cannot teach Appellant's claimed invention, characterized as it is by the generation of a report the content of which is dependent upon a user's answers to questions ***from*** the database. Appellant's invention does not simply patch a canned response but navigates through a logic map to ask a series of questions and gather answers that may be applied to create original combinations of words or phrases to create an original report (as opposed to the pre-written responses of Wyss). In other words, Appellant's invention evaluates the user's answers to questions, those answers taking it down a logical path for additional inquiries and then applying rules in a "report writer" to evaluate the answers to create a customized report. For example, these answers may be applied to clinical guidelines to create a report that makes a diagnosis and presents information to the user on why the diagnosis was made.

Relative to claim 6 (and claim 7 depending therefrom), the examiner's reliance on Par. 47 of Wyss is misplaced, for the teaching therein references the provision of a memory for storing the database of Q/A entries in the form of an ***optical disc memory***, "such as a DVD or CDROM." This is decidedly ***not*** commensurate with teaching a database, as Appellant instantly claims, comprising one or more video files that may be displayed at the user interface, the one or more video files associated with the predefined questions and answers of the database so that the display of the one or more video files at the user interface is dependent upon a user's answers to questions from the database.

Respecting claim 8 (and claim 9 depending therefrom) the examiner's assertion that Wyss teaches in Par. 48 a database comprising one or more URL addresses which may be displayed at the user interface, and which are associated with the predefined questions and answers of the database so that the display of URL addresses at the interface is user-answer dependent, is manifestly incorrect. ***Wyss discloses no more that that the knowledge-base system can be connected to a computer network via a web server*** (114). Such a configuration has absolutely no relationship to the features recited in claims 8, 9, 17 and/or 18 of Appellant's invention.

4. Distinction between Wyss and the Invention of Claims 10-18

Respecting claim 10, the examiner likewise asserts that Wyss teach, at Par. 6, a plurality of predefined questions and associated, predefined answers organized in a predefined relationship between a pre-designated starting question and one or more ending questions to define a plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths. This is ***not***, in fact, the case, as noted above. *See* Wyss at Par. 6. Further, the examiner contends that Wyss teaches

the navigation of one or the plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths as dictated by the user's answers to the questions as presented at the user interface. More specifically, the examiner claims to find correspondence for this limitation in Par. 71 of Wyss, which refers to a "matcher." As noted above, however, the foregoing and related discussion in that reference makes ***no*** reference to any navigation through any of a "plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths defined by the relationship between the pre-designated starting question and the one or more ending questions as dictated by a user's answers to the questions presented at the user interface."

In contrast, and as noted with respect to claim 1, Appellant's invention as defined in claim 10 (and claims 13 and 14 depending therefrom) is distinguishable at least in defining a computer program for ***interrogating a user*** and generating a result (for example a report, custom video presentation, web-site presentation, etc.) based upon the user's interrogatory answers, the interrogation being effected with the presentation to the user of predefined questions from a computer database comprising such predefined questions and associated, predefined answers that are organized in a predefined relationship between a pre-designated starting question and one or more ending questions to thereby define a plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths, and wherein further the selection of any one of the plurality of possible logical paths defined by the relationship between the pre-designated starting question and the one or more ending questions is user-answer dependent. This is emphasized in independent claim 10, which recites that the Appellant's invention ***provides questions*** to be answered by a user, as well as that the plurality of possible logical paths are defined by the relationship ***between the pre-designated starting question and the one or more ending questions***. Again, even though Wyss comprises, in one form, a database including a plurality of question-answer sets, ***no*** questions are presented to a user to answer, nor are the question-answer sets organized in a predefined relationship between to define a plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths. Wyss is, in the end, a mere knowledge base for finding answers to client-generated FAQs.

Unlike Wyss, as noted, Appellant's invention does not simply patch a canned response but navigates through a logic map to ask a series of questions and gather answers that may be applied to create original combinations of words or phrases to create an original report (as opposed to the pre-written responses of Wyss). In other words, Appellant's invention evaluates the user's answers to questions, those answers taking it down a logical path for additional inquiries and then applying rules in a "report writer" to evaluate the answers to create a customized report.

Turning to claim 11 (and claim 12 which depends therefrom), Wyss likewise fails to anticipate for at least the reason that the system of that reference does ***not*** interrogate a user (and, thus, cannot teach Appellant's claimed invention, characterized as it is by the

generation of a report the content of which is dependent upon a user's answers to ***questions from the database***.

Relative to claim 15 (and claim 16 which depends therefrom), the examiner's reliance on Par. 47 of Wyss is again misplaced, for the teaching therein references the provision of a memory for storing the database of Q/A entries in the form of an ***optical disc memory***, "such as a DVD or CDROM." This is ***not*** commensurate with teaching a database, as Appellant instantly claims, comprising one or more video files that may be displayed at the user interface, the one or more video files associated with the predefined questions and answers of the database so that the display of the one or more video files at the user interface is dependent upon a user's answers to questions from the database.

Respecting claim 17 (and 18 depending therefrom), the examiner's assertion that Wyss teaches in Par. 48 a database comprising one or more ***URL addresses*** which may be displayed at the user interface, and which are associated with the predefined questions and answers of the database so that the display of URL addresses at the interface is user-answer dependent, is manifestly incorrect. ***Wyss discloses no more that that the knowledge-base system can be connected to a computer network via a web server*** (114). Such a configuration has absolutely ***no*** relationship to the features recited in claims 17 and/or 18 of Applicant's invention.

5. Distinction between Wyss and the Invention of Claims 19-21

Relative to claim 19, the examiner also asserts that Wyss teach, at Par. 6, a plurality of predefined questions and associated, predefined answers organized in a predefined relationship between a pre-designated starting question and one or more ending questions to define a plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths. This is not the case, as already noted. Rather, Wyss self-evidently comprehends receiving questions from a client ***rather than presenting*** those questions, and providing a response to those questions from the database. As such, Wyss ***cannot*** comprehend "a plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths" as instantly claimed.

As previously, the examiner also contends that Wyss teaches the navigation of one or the plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths as dictated by the user's answers to the questions as presented at the user interface. More specifically, the examiner claims to find correspondence for this limitation in Par. 71 of Wyss, which refers to a "matcher" ("[T]he matcher **106** queries the database **108** in order to find Q/A entries relevant to the question. The matcher **106** uses the word index **700** from database **108** and the question-answer table **600** to generate a response." (*Emphasis original.*)).

But again, the foregoing and related discussion in that reference makes no reference to any navigation through any of a "plurality of possible logical ***interrogatory paths*** defined by the relationship between the pre-designated starting question and the one or more ending

questions as dictated by a user's answers to the questions presented at the user interface." As already noted repeatedly, Wyss does ***not interrogate*** the user. Instead, the ***Wyss system merely searches for an answer to a user-presented question as a simple link between the FAQ and response***. Hence, there is ***no*** teaching of the claimed "interrogatory paths."

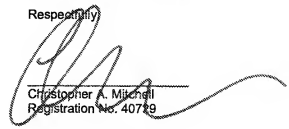
Turning to claim 20, Wyss fails to anticipate for at least the reason that the system of that reference does ***not*** interrogate a user (and, thus, cannot teach Appellant's claimed invention, characterized as it is by the generation of a report the content of which is dependent upon a user's answers to questions ***from*** the database. In other words, Appellant's invention evaluates the user's answers to questions, those answers taking it down a logical path for additional inquiries and then applying rules in a "report writer" to evaluate the answers to create a customized report.

Relative to claim 21, the examiner's reliance on Par. 47 of Wyss is entirely misplaced, for the teaching therein references the provision of a ***memory*** for storing the database of Q/A entries in the form of an ***optical disc memory***, "such as a DVD or CDROM." This is decidedly ***not*** commensurate with teaching a database, as Appellant instantly claims, comprising one or more ***video files*** that may be displayed at the user interface, the one or more video files associated with the predefined questions and answers of the database so that the display of the one or more video files at the user interface is dependent upon a user's answers to questions from the database.

B. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 1-4 and 6-21 are not anticipated by Wyss and, accordingly, respectfully request reversal of the rejection.

Respectfully,



Christopher A. Mitchell
Registration No. 40729

Dated: 23 November 2009

Claims Appendix

1. A computer program for interrogating a user and generating a result, for example a report, custom video presentation, web-site presentation, etc., based upon the user's interrogatory answers, the computer program comprising:

a computer-readable memory device encoded with a database comprising a plurality of predefined questions and associated, predefined answers, wherein the plurality of questions and answers are organized in a predefined relationship between a pre-designated starting question and one or more ending questions to thereby define a plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths through the database, and wherein further the selection of any one of the plurality of possible logical paths is user-answer dependent;

a computer-readable memory device encoded with a user interface for displaying questions from the database to be answered by a user, and for accepting answers from a user; and

a computer-readable memory device encoded with an engine to present questions from the database to the user interface to be answered by a user, and to navigate one of the plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths defined by the relationship between the pre-designated starting question and the one or more ending questions as dictated by a user's answers to the questions presented at the user interface.

2. The computer program of claim 1, wherein the database further comprises content and rules for generating at least one report based upon a user's answers to questions presented at the user interface, the content and rules having a predefined relationship with the plurality of predefined questions and answers of the database so that the content of the at least one report is dependent upon a user's answers to questions from the database, and wherein further the engine is operative to generate from the reporting database at least one report using the content and rules from the database.

3. The computer program of claim 2, wherein the database comprising a plurality of predefined questions and associated, predefined answers, includes questions and answers for evaluating a user's level of knowledge respecting a particular subject matter, and wherein further the content and rules for generating the at least one report based upon a user's answers to questions presented at the user interface include content and rules for generating a test score indicative of a user's level of knowledge respecting the particular subject matter.

4. The computer program of claim 1, wherein the computer-readable memory device encoded with the database, the computer-readable memory device encoded with the user interface, and the computer-readable memory device encoded with the engine all comprise the same computer-readable memory device.

6. The computer program of claim 1, wherein the database further comprises one or more video files, wherein the engine is operative to display one or more of the one or more video files at the user interface, and wherein further the one or more video files are associated with the predefined questions and answers of the database so that the display of the one or more video files at the user interface is dependent upon a user's answers to questions from the database.

7. The computer program of claim 6, wherein the engine is operative to display a plurality of the video files at the user interface in a continuous sequence the order of which is defined by a user's answers to questions from the database.

8. The computer program of claim 1, wherein the database further comprises one or more URL addresses, wherein the engine is operative to display the URL addresses at the user interface, and wherein further the one or more URL addresses are associated with the predefined questions and answers of the database so that the display of the URL addresses at the user interface is dependent upon a user's answers to questions from the database.

9. The computer program of claim 8, wherein the engine is operative to display a plurality of the URL addresses at the user interface in a sequence the order of which is defined by a user's answers to questions from the database.

10. A computer-based system for interrogating a user and generating a result, for example a report, custom video presentation, web-site presentation, etc., based upon the user's interrogatory answers, the system comprising:

at least one computer including a computer-readable memory device encoded with a database comprising a plurality of predefined questions and associated, predefined answers, wherein the plurality of questions and answers are organized in a predefined relationship between a pre-designated starting question and one or more ending questions to thereby define a plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths through the database, and wherein further the selection of any one of the plurality of possible logical paths is user-answer dependent;

at least one user interface for displaying questions from the at least one computer comprising the database to be answered by a user, and for accepting answers from a user provided in response to the displayed questions; and

at least one computer including a computer-readable memory device encoded with an engine to present questions from the database to the user interface to be answered by a user, and to navigate one of the plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths defined by the

relationship between the pre-designated starting question and the one or more ending questions as dictated by a user's answers to the questions presented at the user interface.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the database further comprises content and rules for generating at least one report based upon a user's answers to questions presented at the user interface, the content and rules having a predefined relationship with the plurality of predefined questions and answers of the database so that the content of the at least one report is dependent upon a user's answers to questions from the database, and wherein further the engine is operative to generate from the reporting database at least one report using the content and rules from the database.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the database comprising a plurality of predefined questions and associated, predefined answers, includes questions and answers for evaluating a user's level of knowledge respecting a particular subject matter, and wherein further the content and rules for generating the at least one report based upon a user's answers to questions presented at the user interface include content and rules for generating a test score indicative of a user's level of knowledge respecting the particular subject matter.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein the at least one computer comprising the database, and the at least one computer comprising the engine all comprise the same computer.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein the at least one user interface is displayed at a location physically remote from the at least one computer comprising the database and the at least one computer comprising the engine.

15. The system of claim 10, wherein the database further comprises one or more video files, wherein the engine is operative to display one or more of the one or more video files at the user interface, and wherein further the one or more video files are associated with the predefined questions and answers of the database so that the display of one or more video files at the user interface is dependent upon a user's answers to questions from the database.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the engine is operative to display a plurality of the video files at the user interface in a continuous sequence the order of which is defined by a user's answers to questions from the database.

17. The system of claim 10, wherein the database further comprises one or more URL addresses, wherein the engine is operative to display the URL addresses at the user interface, and wherein further the one or more URL addresses are associated with the

predefined questions and answers of the database so that the display of URL addresses at the user interface is dependent upon a user's answers to questions from the database.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the engine is operative to display a plurality of the URL addresses at the user interface in a sequence the order of which is defined by a user's answers to questions from the database.

19. A method for interrogating a user and generating a result, for example a report, custom video presentation, web-site presentation, etc., based upon the user's interrogatory answers, the computer program comprising:

interrogating a user with predefined questions from a computer database comprising the predefined questions and associated, predefined answers, wherein the plurality of questions and answers are organized in a predefined relationship between a pre-designated starting question and one or more ending questions to thereby define a plurality of possible logical interrogatory paths through the database, and wherein further the selection of any one of the plurality of possible logical paths defined by the relationship between the pre-designated starting question and the one or more ending questions is user-answer dependent, and wherein further the interrogation step is facilitated by an user interface operative to display the predefined questions from the at least one computer database to be answered by a user, and to accept answers from a user provided in response to the displayed questions; and

displaying a result at the user interface following the interrogation step, wherein the result is based upon a user's answers to the displayed questions.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of providing a computer database comprising content and rules for generating at least one report based upon a user's answers to questions displayed at the user interface, the content and rules having a predefined relationship with the plurality of predefined questions and answers so that the content of the at least one report is dependent upon a user's answers to questions from the database, and wherein further the step of displaying a result at the user interface comprises displaying at least one report generated using the content and rules from the database.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the computer database further comprises one or more video files associated with the predefined questions and answers of the database, and wherein further the step of displaying a result at the user interface comprises displaying one or more of the one or more video files at the user interface depending upon a use's answers to the questions from the database.

VIII. Evidence Appendix

None.

IX. Related Proceedings Appendix

None.